

INTERIM COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF FINE ARTS

Minutes - Friday, March 5, 1976

PRESENT:

Dean A. Pinsky (Chairman)
Professors D. Andrus, F. Barry, P. Cohen, E. Cooke, M. Dewes,
C. Gabriel-Lacki, H. George, J. Goguen, R. Greenberg, S. Horner,
D. Jones, H.W. Jones, P. Landsley, J. Locke, J. Miller,
S. Paikowsky, W. Reznicek, E.J. Sacca, L. Sherman, J. Smoke,
N. Springford, B. Wainwright.

Faculty of Arts Rep. Prof. W. Francis

Undergraduate Stud. Rep. E. Garsonnin, A. Cotrel

Graduate Stud. Rep. Kevin Lucas

Library Rep. Loren Singer

APOLOGIES:

Professors J. Krause, P. Spensley
Asst. Dean G. Gross
Registrar K. Adams

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M., although a full quorum had not been reached. The approval of the minutes was therefore postponed until later. The Chairman went on to Point 2 of the agenda.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

2.1 Dean Pinsky encouraged faculty members and students to circulate any newsworthy items through the Information Office in order to generate more publicity for Fine Arts.

2.2 Meeting of the Canadian Association of Fine Arts Deans (CAFAD)

Dean Pinsky reported on the meeting of the Canadian Association of Fine Arts Deans in Ottawa last Monday and Tuesday, March 1 & 2, 1976.

The Association was formed last October at the International Council of Fine Arts Deans. The organization originally consisted of three members, however, an additional Fine Arts Dean from Calgary was brought in as well as the President of the Ontario College of Art. The meeting was held on an informal basis, no minutes are being kept so far. The members met with different people such as the Hon. Hugh Faulkner whose main concern seemed to be the plight of art education in elementary and secondary schools. A further discussion took place with Jean Boggs, the Director of the National Gallery, regarding the possibility of the

Gallery providing internships for art historians and the possible development of National Gallery exhibitions directed exclusively at university galleries.

The next day the Deans met with Lister Sinclair at the CBC and discussed possibilities of apprenticeships for students in different fields such as cinema, photography, production etc. They also met briefly with Al Johnson, the President of the CBC whose main concern seemed to be the desperate economic plight of the CBC.

One of the most fruitful sessions was the luncheon at Canada Council with the Director, Charles Lussier and his associates, David Peacock, Geoffrey James and Monique Michaud. This was felt to be a potentially useful connection in terms of receiving grants for Fine Arts students. The Deans also met with Hamilton Southam, the Director of the National Arts Centre who invited the Association to a closed conference on Fine Arts criticism in July to be held under the auspices of the National Arts Centre. A suggestion was made by the Association that touring groups be made available to perform in Canadian universities.

By and large the formation of a Fine Arts Deans Association was met with great interest.

This meeting of the Deans was also an opportunity to compare working conditions throughout Canada for art teachers. Several universities are suffering from a cut-back in budget and a freeze in hiring more personnel. Calgary had to accept a 15% cut-back in the overall budget. Although York University has adequate facilities in terms of space and equipment no new programmes can be proposed due to budgetary restraints. As a matter of interest, York University has the same ratio of full- and part time personnel. Workloads for teachers in the different universities seem to be generally the same as we have here at Concordia.

The next meeting of CAFAD is scheduled for July in Ottawa.

- 2.3 Dean Pinsky pointed out that the Provincial Government had announced that Capital and Operating budgets are to be frozen, however, the freeze on the budgets did not affect 1976/77 salaries.

- 2.4 The Chairman reported on the last meeting of Senate:

1. The marking system had not been finalized and therefore, no policy had been established. The Rector was expected to take the matter in hand and make recommendations.
2. A discussion took place on whether smoking in classrooms and labs should be permitted or not. 4,500 students had signed a petition to stop smoking during classes. (A resolution was passed by Senate on February 27, 1976, as a result of this petition, to prohibit smoking during classes).

Regarding the marking system discussed by Senate, Asst. Prof. J. Locke added that a unified marking system throughout Concordia, which seemed to have had preference with members of this Council, would not be put into effect. The system generally recommended had been towards a double marking system.

2.5 Questions from the Floor

Coming back to Dean Pinsky's report on the Deans' meeting in Ottawa, Prof. L. Sherman wished to know whether communication arts was a part of the Faculty of Fine Arts in other universities. It was suggested that a questionnaire be sent out to find out how Fine Arts faculties organize this area.

- 2.6 Assoc. Prof. N. Springford felt that a policy should be designed to classify parttime professors according to their qualifications. Prof. L. Sherman suggested that a Task Force be set up to study a re-classification of parttime salaries. Dean Pinsky explained however that a task force could make recommendations to the Dean who would pass these on to the Rector who has the final say in salary matters. He added that in Commerce parttime teachers often teach courses because of the prestige involved in teaching at a university and because they feel that they are doing a community service. In Fine Arts however, for many of our parttime professors teaching is the sole means of income. Therefore, there is some justification for special consideration in this faculty.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Undergraduate Student Representative Anne Cotrel handed out a proposal to members of Council asking that the university provide free workshop space to third year students. This request had been signed by 113 students.

The request was for the university to provide a large studio inside or outside the university for third year students where they would have the opportunity to work on their own. This would be regarded as an additional dimension to the third year programme as well as to adequately prepare students for the transition period after they graduate.

Assoc. Prof. C. Lacki pointed out that a similar project had been started a few years ago when a printmaking studio was installed. Students were glad to make use of the space, however, they were not prepared to accept the responsibilities that went along with such a project and the studio folded down.

Graduate Student Representative Kevin Lucas suggested that students should display some of their works in order to collect money themselves to pay for the rent of such a facility.

Prof. L. Sherman mentioned that most of the studio space was not being used in the summer and could be offered to graduating students. Anne Cotrel replied that most students had to work during the summer months.

Asst. Prof. J. Goguen felt that studio classes were never so full that one could not find a space and he felt sure professors would not mind admitting a student who was really keen on painting.

Assoc. Prof. N. Springford wanted to know if the students had set some kind of a limit as to the budget that would be required for such a project. Anne Cotrel answered that they wanted to get the idea approved in principle before working out the details of the proposal.

Dean Pinsky explained that if the proposal was an academically viable one, the university could be approached. However, one could also approach Federal and Provincial agencies and ask for their support. He suggested that in principle a proposal should be formulated.

Several members pointed out that a university degree was only a stepping stone towards a profession. Students had to use their own initiative to establish a career, using their degree as a means and as a help.

Asst. Prof. W. Reznicek stated that part of the transition consisted of facing the same problems that students had to face at university in terms of space and funding, etc. Students should be able to find their own solutions to these problems, and, as he called it "an extension to the hothouse atmosphere of the university" would not necessarily help them face reality after they graduate.

Prof. Sherman suggested that perhaps studio courses could be shortened to allow students to work on their own, but Assoc. Prof. J. Miller disagreed to this suggestion, saying that many times in a six hour course with 15 students there was not sufficient time to discuss projects with each student.

Several members supported the idea of the proposal in principle. They felt that the third year could be modified as opposed to the first and second year to include more free time where students could work on their own initiative in order to prepare themselves for the transition period after graduation.

IT WAS MOVED BY ASST. PROF. J. SMOKE AND SECONDED BY PROF. L. SHERMAN THAT THE STUDENTS SHOULD BRING THEIR PROPOSAL FORWARD TO THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE LIGHT OF TODAY'S MEETING AT WHICH TIME THE COMMITTEE WOULD ASK INSTRUCTORS INVOLVED IN STUDIO AREAS AND INTERESTED STUDENTS TO ATTEND.

MOTION CARRIED

3 abstentions

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Asst. Prof. D. Andrus pointed out that paragraph 6.2 of the last minutes should read 1976 and not 1977. He added that a date for the faculty exhibition had now been set for January 13 to February 5, 1977.

THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 1976 WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.